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www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/

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Sen. Kuipers introducing legislation to keep child passengers safe

Lansing - As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, Feb. 8-14, Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, will introduce child-passenger legislation to keep children safe while traveling.

“Children deserve to be protected as passengers in vehicles,” Kuipers said. “Making sure young children are safely restrained in seats helps save lives and prevents serious injury.”

Kuipers is sponsoring one of a series of bills aimed at making sure all children are properly restrained when traveling. His bill would require that two points be assessed for a violation when a driver doesn’t have a child younger than 4 secured in a child-restraint system or doesn’t secure a child from 4 to 15 years old in a belt.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children aged 0-15, according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 child passengers aged 0-15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

Kuipers reminds parents that it doesn’t matter if you are traveling three blocks or three hours, child restraint seats are one of the best ways to protect children on the road. He is offering parents and child caregivers these safety reminders:

- Face infant seats to the rear in the back seat from birth to at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.
- Face safety seats forward in the back seat from age 1 to about age 4 and 20 to 40 pounds.
- Place booster seats in the back seat from about age 4 and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless 4 feet, 9 inches.
- Use safety belts at age 8 or older, or taller than 4 feet, 9 inches. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.
- Buckle up! Children learn by example.

Child Passenger Safety Week is a national effort to advocate the benefits of child safety seats on every trip, every time. For more information, contact Kuipers’ office, toll-free, at 1-877-KUIPERS or visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

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